
AP Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Question 3

3 points

One point is earned for correctly describing the cause of the regional differences in foreign investment.

Correct descriptions may include:

- Proximity to the United States and markets
- More industry or better infrastructure
- Incentives generated by NAFTA
- Dominance of neoliberal-oriented PAN in North

One point is earned for correctly describing one economic consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment.

A correct description may include:

North:

- Wealthier
- Stronger economic growth
- More jobs
- More infrastructure
- Higher wages
- Migration from South
- More maquiladoras
- More trade with the United States
- More economic dependence on the United States
- More skilled workforce

South:

- Poorer
- Fewer jobs
- Less infrastructure
- Lower wages
- Migration to the North
- Less skilled workforce

One point is earned for correctly describing one political consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment.

A correct description may include:

In the North:

- More support for PAN
- More politically conservative
- More public support for free market
- More pro-American

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Question 3 (continued)

In the South:

- More support for the PRD
- More leftist
- More anti-NAFTA sentiment
- More anti-neoliberal protests
- More protectionist
- More anti-American
- More statist

Broad Consequence:

- Regional differences create political cleavages.

NOTE: Some language needs to refer to the region (e.g., not just “jobs” but more jobs in the North).

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points or for an off-task answer.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank.

3. There is a greater concentration of foreign investment in the north of Mexico than in the south. cause of the regional differences in foreign investment. Describe one economic consequence of differences in foreign investment. Describe one political consequence of the regional differences in investment.

3A

Northern Mexico receives more foreign investment due to it being more industrialized. Northern Mexico is more pro-business which allows it to receive investments in those businesses, opposite of the rural south.

An economic consequence is that it leaves the north more wealthy than the south. The north is able to industrialize and make economic strides while the south still relies on agriculture.

The north is more supportive of the PAN party due to its favoring of business and industrialization. This is also true of the North American Free Trade Agreement. The south opposes those and is more likely to support PRD.

3. There is a greater concentration of foreign investment in the north of Mexico than in the south cause of the regional differences in foreign investment. Describe one economic consequence o differences in foreign investment. Describe one political consequence of the regional differenc investment.

3B

As Mexico further transitions into a strong democ
H has improved its economy by stimulating foreign
investment. Foreign investment has been concentrated in
the north of Mexico because it borders the United
States which is important for trade and solicitation
of foreign investment. ~~Because~~ maquiladores, or areas
with tax benefits and resources, have been set up in the
north along the border to prompt foreign investment.
This ~~regio~~ regional difference has caused a cleavage
economically, because the north is now becoming
more successful and modernized than the south,
with more globalization. An economic consequence of
foreign investment is that the economy has improved
greatly, with the oil industry becoming more privatized.
Also, Mexico has joined more international economic
organizations, such as NAFTA. One political consequence
due to this ~~econo~~ economic cleavage is that the
north tends to be more business-minded and
supportive of free market economics, leading them
to vote for PAN. On the contrary, the south holds more
antiquated, revolutionary values and votes for
PRI.

3. There is a greater concentration of foreign investment in the north of Mexico than in the south. Describe one economic consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment. Describe one political consequence of the regional differences in investment.

3C

There is a greater concentration of foreign investment in the North of Mexico than in the South because of geographical location and demographics. As the North has already have a established base that foreign investment can work with but also the proximity to the U.S makes it very appealing. One consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment is that the South is substantially underdeveloped than its counter part. Also leading to be underrepresented than the North as well as not being prioritized.

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Question 3

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' understanding of the causes of the greater concentration of foreign investment in the north of Mexico than in the south and of the economic and political consequences of regional differences in foreign investment. The skills tested were descriptive. Students had three specific tasks: to describe a cause of the greater concentration of foreign investment in northern Mexico compared to the south, to describe an economic consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment, and to describe a political consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment.

Sample: 3A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing a cause of the greater concentration of foreign investment in northern Mexico as "Northern Mexico ... being more industrialized." The response earned 1 point for correctly describing an economic consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment as "it leaves the north more wealthy than the south." The response earned 1 point for describing a political consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment as "the north is more supportive of the PAN party due to its favoring of business and industrialization."

Sample: 3B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing a cause of the greater concentration of foreign investment in northern Mexico as "because it borders the United States." The response does not correctly describe an economic consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment. The response earned 1 point for correctly describing a political consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment by stating that "the North tends to be more ... supportive of free market economics."

Sample: 3C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing a cause of the greater concentration of foreign investment in northern Mexico as the region's "proximity to the U.S." The response does not correctly describe an economic consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment. The response does not correctly describe a political consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment.